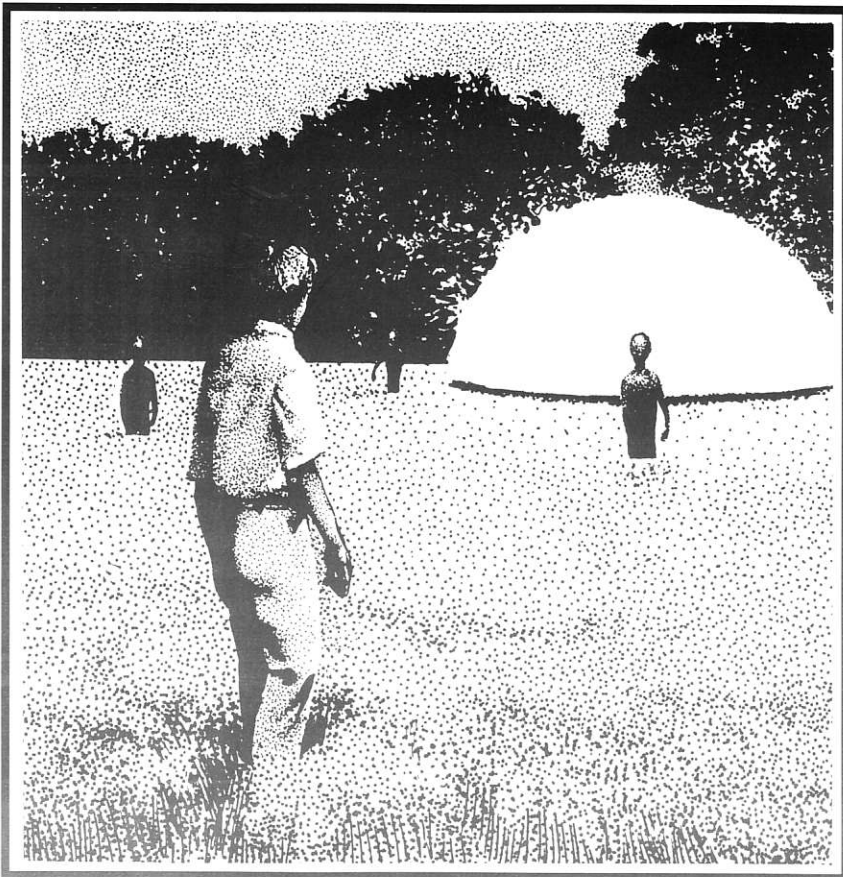


UFO TIMES

Number 18 May/June 1992

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ETH Hype Or Hypothesis?

INSIDE

Are Ufologists who follow the Extra-terrestrial Hypothesis in the UK a dying breed? Norman Oliver says no and presents his intuitive thoughts on the subject.

Philip Mantle uncovers a little known British abduction with a detailed analysis.

And Paul Fuller unveils the opening of the Crop Circle season with a detailed critique.

Plus.... News, Reviews, Skywatcher, readers letters and more in your all new UFO Times.

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The British UFO Research Association realises the importance of treating cases submitted to the Association by witnesses as confidential. In the light of this, The BUFORA Code of Practice has been devised and employed throughout the Association to guarantee that the utmost care is taken when dealing with witness personal details and case report material.

It is also the policy of UFO Times not to publish the names or addresses of witnesses who are not in the 'public domain'. The material and personal details of witnesses who have been published in the media will be treated with care and empathy by the editorship.

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1. To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom.
2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to unidentified flying objects (UFOs).
3. To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

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UFO TIMES

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UFO TIMES EDITORIAL

Failed Crop?

What has happened to the crop circles this year? No dramatic media headlines. No amazing evolutions in design. Cereological researchers emigrating to the US in droves. The once joined-at-the-hip duo of Andrews and Delgado severed, never to merge again. The CCCS split over the issue of hoaxing. And Terence Meaden not knowing what to say next for the best. It looks like the subject is dying on its feet.

Certainly, one can trace back where the seeds of discontent were sown. Yes, Doug and Dave, those elusive circle hoaxers. Their brief notoriety in the media at the end of last summer, whether their claims were genuine or not, burst the bubble; possibly for good.

Once reasonable doubt had been placed on the authenticity of the subject matter, the newspapers, radio and television all lost interest. Plus the fact that the National Farmers Union asked the media not to publicise circle formations as they believed that the circles were caused by hoaxers and that sightseers caused further irreparable damage to crops. It is my belief that as the circle

hoaxers (and it is worth mentioning that there are at least 24 known organised hoaxing groups around the country) don't have an audience any more, they have somewhat curtailed their activities. Many may disagree with me. I may even be wrong, but that is my gut feeling and of course time will tell.

Contact

The Andrews/Delgado split is a significant development. Andrews has basically followed in the footsteps of David Icke and gone ultra new age over the circles and has predicted major contacts with the 'intelligence' behind the circle making. He predicted that this major contact would be between the 20th and 30th July. To accomplish the contact Andrews teamed up with Steven Greer, a ufologist from the US who tries to attract UFOs with the aid of laser beams. Sure enough on the 30th July Andrews and Greer, along with several acolytes and lasers blazing, noticed a strange red light in the night sky which then turned into an unmistakable

spaceship. Details are rather sketchy from here on except unfortunately, the battery of camera and video equipment that were there to record this momentous occasion were all stored in a tent, sheltered from the rain - how inconvenient.

To his credit, Delgado wants nothing to do with this escapade.

The sad thing about this sorry state of affairs is that at the heart of the subject, there maybe something of scientific interest. Some simple circles might just be caused by some rare natural occurrence. But now, no one who has a scientific reputation to protect will take the subject seriously. Who can we blame for this situation, well its down to the cereologists themselves and their excessive hypotheses that are ironically failing to germinate.

Gulf Breeze on its Knees

The recent Gulf Breeze photo revelations (see news page) has brought further disappointment to ufology. MUFON, who have promoted the authenticity of the case and Ed Walters from the beginning must be feeling rather embarrassed right now. I am surprised that it has taken nearly five years for the photographs to be proved as hoaxes, from some basic inconsistencies, especially as MUFON had the resources and manpower to nip the case in the bud early on. Their saving grace has been to publish the latest findings, up front, for all to see. We will have to see how Walters responds. That will indeed be interesting.

UFOs Reported In Siberia

Report by Mike Wootten

Tass, the news agency of the former Soviet Union has reported a spate of UFO sightings in Chelyabinsk province, Siberia.

The report, dated 14th August 1992 refers to articles that have appeared in a local newspaper, 'Chelyabinsk Rabochi', which claims that several witnesses from the province have sighted revolving 'flying saucers' of an aluminium-silver hue that appear at dawn and during the night. The report stated, 'As a rule, they come flying from the side of the Ziuraratkul lake and the mountain ridge bearing the same name.'

Fyodor Stepanovich Nesterov, a resident of Magitka - the focal point of the sightings - has now seen the objects three times. He said, "...They sailed over the school hill (where electric power lines pass) without making any noise and disappeared in the direction of the Chyornaya Rivulet and Bolshay

Boom." Fyodor also stated that he clearly saw illuminated windows and navigational lights on the sides of the UFOs.

Tass also reported that police officers from Novosibirsk, Siberia were called out by local peasant farmers who were complaining that 'wood goblins' were churning water taken from a nearby marsh. The water in a bucket was spinning endlessly. Video equipment which police brought to film the phenomenon failed to operate correctly, which resulted in a poor recording. Biologists were called to the scene who later claimed that some invisible force was effecting the water. A man who dared to put his finger in the bucket said he felt a burning pain along with pins and needles.

Local ufologists alleged that the phenomenon was caused by UFOs. Apparently the water is still spinning.

Berlin Hosts UFO Conference

by Manfred Cassirer

Under the heading "The Colonel's Wife has seen it with her own eyes", De Welt reports on this year's UFO conference in Berlin, devoting a whole page to it and including a photograph of a UFO from Mexico (which inspires little confidence).

The writer pointedly asks whether Washington is going public this year. I can only add, "Yes, and every year as far as I can think back."

A 58-year old Moscowite test-pilot "Believes" in such things after two Close Encounters of the Third Kind. Even better news: the experts

assembled in the German capital have 'solved' the mysteries of Stonehenge and of the crop circles.

UFO NEWSLINE

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Livingston Plaque Vanishes

The brass plaque embossed with details of the Livingston close encounter has been stolen.

The plaque disappeared just before an official opening ceremony arranged by Malcolm Robinson of the Scottish based Strange Phenomena Investigations group along with rock band CEIV. The first anybody knew about the disappearance was just before the plaque was going to be unveiled with a bemused national press looking on. However, the tenacious ensemble were not going to be deterred and the opening ceremony continued.

UFO Buzzes the Northwest

Hundreds of people in the Northwest of England and North Wales were puzzled by the sighting of a brilliant blue luminous object that passed over them at approximately 11pm on Sunday, 17th August.

Initial analysis of the data points to a natural explanation. It is very probable that the object was a bright fireball meteor. However, several witnesses have claimed that the object was in view for several minutes - which is inconsistent with the meteor explanation. Despite these inconsistencies, it is expected that with further analysis of the data, the meteor explanation will be confirmed.

UFO Group Directory

Ufological entrepreneur, Philip Mantle has embarked on a new project and needs your help.

He is currently compiling a directory of currently active UFO groups and publications from around the world which will include contact names and addresses. Philip said, "No group is too small or too large and publications can range from news stand magazines to more simpler newsletters."

If you would like to be included in his directory then write to Philip at the following address: 1 Woodhall Drive, Batley, West Yorkshire, England, WF17 7SW.

BUFORA OFFICE NEWS

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Ministry of Defence Channel Reports to BUFORA

Over the past two years the Ministry of Defence have proved to be quite co-operative with answering queries and general correspondence from BUFORA. In a recent move the MOD are now referring witnesses who report sightings directly to BUFORA, through the Harpenden office.

A top level meeting with the MOD has been planned to discuss further cooperation and to look at MOD methods of dealing with UFO reports. John Spencer will be representing BUFORA at that meeting. John said, I was asked what I would like them to bring to the meeting, I replied by saying ... Some pieces of crashed saucer and a couple of dead aliens! The MOD were certain that these items were not on file!

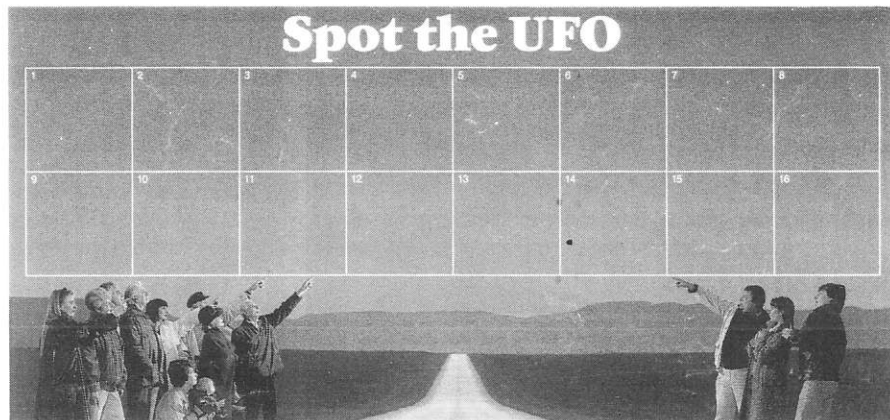
Fast Response to Membership Enquiries

BUFORA office staff are now receiving 30 new membership enquiries a week. All enquiries are dealt with within 24 hours. With such an impressive response, many enquiries turn into actual membership applications.

Serbian Pilots report 'Foo Fighter'

The Yugoslav government information office have confirmed reports made by several Serbian pilots who saw a UFO on 2nd May 1992.

According to the official statement, the orange object was sighted at night over central Serbia at an approximate height of 12 kilometres and evaded all military actions.



13 million people have seen UFOs

Spot the UFO with Time Life

You've heard of spot the ball. Now we have spot the UFO!

Many will say that it is more likely to spot the ball correctly than to spot a UFO, but Time life Books would disagree.

They used the above competition as part of their promotion of a new series of books relating to the paranormal with the first in the series being about UFOs. Lucky entrants will win a trip to Hollywood.

Gulf Breeze Photos Take a Blow

Report by Mike Wootten

A major report has appeared in the July issue of MUFON Journal that casts grave doubt over the authenticity of the Gulf Breeze UFO photos taken by Ed Walters.

The report, based on an intensive study undertaken by William Hyzer, who is considered to be one of the leading photoanalytic experts in the United States, concludes that the images, '...are uniquely characteristic of multiple exposure photography and could have been easily produced by the simple application of this technique.'

Hyzer, who served as a consultant to the Polaroid Corporation, made his conclusions after confirming that impressive photo 19 (where the object is hovering low over a road) was a fake. It was noticed that there were no reflections from the bright object onto the bonnet of the Ford 150 XLT truck that Walters took the photograph from. Hyzer unquestionably proved that from the apparent luminosity of the object and its presumed overall height, reflections should have been clearly visible.

Other inconsistencies also showed up in the other photographs analysed.

Objects appearing against a twilight sky assume the same colouration to the surrounding blue sky. In particular, it was noted that the three objects depicted in photograph 18 had different colourations depending on the graduating twilight sky background they were directly in front of. This observation was also attributed to double exposure trickery.

Contact Corner

Want to meet BUFORA members in your area? Then contact corner is for you.

P.S. John is a new member to BUFORA and would like to meet other members in his area. If you are interested in contacting him send an sae to the following address:

6 Whitehouse Drive, Kingstone, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR2 9ER.

Likewise, if you want to make contact in your area write to: Contact Corner, UFO Times, Suite 1, The Leys, 2c Leyton Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 2TL.

THE ET CONCEPT – *HYPE OR HYPOTHESIS?*

by Norman Oliver

At my October 1991 talk on 'Coincidences', your editor invited me to submit an article supporting the ETH. On his own head be it!

To start with, bearing in mind the title, let's get one or two things straight – not least the dictionary definitions of 'HYPE' and 'HYPOTHESIS'.

'HYPE' is defined either as 'an extravagant or intensive publicity promotion, or cheating – a trick'.

'HYPOTHESIS' is 'A proposition made as a basis for reasoning without the assumption of its truth'. Note the latter part, for it means you don't have to BELIEVE that UFOs of necessity HAVE to be extra-terrestrial if you put forward the ETH as one of the main candidates for the solution of the UFO enigma.

HYPE, so far as alien craft are concerned, there certainly is – the media generally manage to satisfy the 'extravagant or intensive publicity' definition with ease! A proclaimed extra-terrestrial origin is sure to capture the public imagination far more than other types of approach and is easily capitalised upon.

Taking its other definition, there have always been plenty of tricksters. Was it not the late Dr. Hynek who said, "... the most one can say any UFO photograph is that one has done one's best to discredit it and failed."? We have some who will claim CEIII and CEIV experiences in the hope of monetary gain. We have others – and I must admit to a sneaking admiration for some, such as David Simpson, who currently, and in the past, have deliberately set up bogus accounts, photos and 'landings' to test the abilities of investigators – and it has to be said that in a number of cases investigatorial ability was found to be sadly lacking.

Now – HYPOTHESIS – and a word about hypotheses and theories would not come amiss, for the terms are quite frequently and incorrectly used interchangeably. This is completely wrong, for theory is defined as 'a system of ideas based on general principles independent of the idea to be explained, the

opposite of hypothesis'. So -for a hypothesis to be put forward, all we really need is an idea: for a theory we require considerably more.

ET – Extraterrestrial – may be either an entity, a 'being from outer space' or, given its literal, Latin meaning, 'beyond Earth'. We could, of course, amend that a little to 'out of this world' which, semantically, could be argued either to indicate something emanating from beyond our planet or precisely the opposite! Maybe, so far as UFOs are concerned, both definitions might apply – but more of that later.

Though I do not have to BELIEVE in the ETH in order to put it forward as a major contender for the answer to the UFO enigma, nevertheless, I would consider the ETH -or rather a modification thereof – as the concept most likely to be found to be the ultimate answer: my reasons will become clear as we proceed.

Now, it really IS too great a nonsense to suggest, as some have, that ufology has become a case of the 'It's all in the mind' brigade versus 'ET-ites'. To consider some of your 'genuine' UFOs to be craft doesn't by any means indicate that they HAVE to be extra-terrestrial: just as psychic/mental possibilities and external manipulation are by no means necessarily 'all in the mind'.

Think about it! For if it's alleged that UFOs ARE 'all in the mind' – that they have no physical existence at all – then, apart from anything else, we can forget about examining photographic evidence completely. They must ALL be fakes, for if UFOs have no physical existence, you can't photograph them!

It is also a fact that almost all our 90-95% of IFOs ARE of physical origin -planets, stars, balloons, ball-lightning and so on, ad nauseam. I've had all of them reported to me over and over again – usually at around two-o'clock in the morning! Those who made the reports really DID think they were re-

porting 'genuine' UFOs: so why, when all these MIS-reports are physical, should the remaining 5% (or whatever) have no physical existence at all? It doesn't make sense.

Is it indeed not much simpler – and in line with 'Occam's Razor' – to consider that the witnesses are actually reporting – to the best of their ability – what is there to be seen? And indeed, if UFO reports WERE to be 'all in the mind', along with leprechauns, trolls, fairies, the Loch Ness monster and many other claimed visitations of present or bygone days, how could we be certain external manipulation might not be involved?

I've already used the term 'craft', and this has, on occasion, been taken exception to, not least by the respected editor of this publication.

In a UFO context, the work 'craft' is obviously not acceptable when reports refer to LITS, balls of light and a number of other UFO manifestations. However, in that small residue of what one may term 'solid' reports, the term 'craft' is, very frequently, completely justified, for that is precisely what some of these unknowns ARE. Whether they are of terrestrial, extra-terrestrial, or of other alien origins, is a completely different question. A widely approved definition of a UFO is 'A stimulus for a UFO report'. But, does one really think that the witnesses in the accounts quoted later in this article merely thought of, or noticed, something that 'stimulated' them into reporting a solid, physical craft? I think not. They observed flying, manufactured objects of unknown origin – objects which could justifiably be labelled 'craft'.

On occasions, I've also been taken to task for using the word 'craft' because it has been alleged that it's likely to induce people to produce 'abduction scenarios'. Popycock! Most will agree that, to put it euphemistically,

The States are rather more prone to abduction scenarios than we are! Yet, in the Wytheville, Virginia 'flap' of 1987/88, which I wrote up in QUEST INTERNATIONAL, Vol. 9 No 4, there were well over 1,000 UFO reports. The word 'craft' was constantly being used, yet barely half-a-dozen out of that 1,000+ claimed any form of abduction.

Now – that word 'Alien'. By no means does it necessarily have to indicate an extra-terrestrial. A witch-doctor or Red Indian chief in full regalia would be alien to their surroundings if they arrived at London Bridge station in rush hour. But -they'd not be alien to this planet! In their 1980 book 'ALIEN ANIMALS', Janet and Colin Bord used the words in precisely this context – animals seen where they should not be. Unidentified craft may similarly be said to be 'alien', whether they are of this Earth or not. Indeed, some months ago, even the TUC referred to 'alien' practices in industry: they weren't alien practices from the Pleiades – they were from Japan!

In a BUFORA JOURNAL editorial back in 1977 (Vol. 6, No.4), I commenced by saying that no hypothesis or theory regarding the nature of UFOs has yet been proven and that, of course, is still the case. One can only proffer varying degrees of credibility and those degrees will themselves differ according to the individual.

I then went on to quote Occam's Razor, which I referred to earlier. Occam's Razor was a maxim put forward by a 14th century friar – William of Occam. Basically, his maxim said, 'Entities should not be multiplied without necessity'. (Quite appropriate today!). Bertand Russel later expanded – or amended – this to: 'If everything in some science can be interpreted without assuming this or that hypothetical entity, there is no ground for assuming it'. Now we do NOT have to assume there are unidentified CRAFT (the two 'sample' reports quoted later are, I submit, incapable of any other description). We do not have to assume 'entities' (in the ufological sense). Heaven knows, a sufficient variety – far TOO sufficient a variety – has been reported over the years. For that matter, I had an entity experience myself a decade ago which, among others, will appear in a QUEST INTERNATIONAL article later in the year. What IS an assumption is that all these craft and entities are extra-terrestrial in origin.

It IS true, that with the ETH explanation we need to assume a number of other things. We have to assume there IS other intelligent life in our solar system despite all scientific indications to the contrary, OR, alternatively, either that FTL (faster than light) travel is possible OR that any ET visitants have remarkable powers of longevity. We've also to assume that a number of extra-terrestrial civilisations are at a comparable state of evolution to ourselves for, over the last 100 years, we've advanced technologically far more than in the previous 1 000, and what was happening here, even only 10 000 years ago, is almost guesswork. Claims that visitants are 10 000, 100 000 or millions of years ahead of us could, therefore, be said to be absolute nonsense. So, with the ETH, it could seem we have to make several assumptions. But DO we? I'll have a few points to make about this at the end.

So far as assumptions are concerned, most other proffered UFO explanations require them too. Take 'time travel' for instance: here, one has to make the assumption that it is possible not only to travel through time, but simultaneously through space, for our entire solar system is moving through it at more than a few miles per second. To travel back from, say, 2 100 AD to the present day would, therefore, also involve a journey of many light years back to the point in space our system presently occupies.

Perhaps it is appropriate here, too, to comment on claimed alien origins. Specifying, for example, that an alien extra-terrestrial origin is from a planet circling – say -Sirius B may, or may not, be justified. But beware of those just referring to a constellation as a point of origin. (I come from Orion, etc.), for the stars in Orion, as with most other constellations, are, to us, only in a visual configuration, not an actual one. Many of them may, in fact, be farther from one another than we are from them, so to claim one has come from there is a nonsense: a celestial equivalent, perhaps, of being able to receive a shock from an electric cable some 50' above you, but only if you have one foot on the cable and the other on the ground below!

Other types of suggested areas for UFO origins, such as Parallel Dimensions and the Hollow Earth Theory, also have their constrictions (And why is the Hollow Earth concept usually referred to as a theory, when by no stretch of the imagination can it be

more than a hypothesis?). As a hypothesis, I can accept the idea – just! But would someone please enlighten me as to where the centre of gravity would lie? Logically, all the 'inner denizens' would have their feet on the inside of the Earth's crust with their heads towards a (presumed) inner sun. We, on the outside, also have our feet firmly on the Earth's crust but facing an 'outer' sun. Now, in this situation, unless one or both sets of inhabitants are going to dive head first into their respective suns, the centre of gravity for both has to be between the two in order for all to keep their feet firmly on, or under, the ground! There would seem to be some slight difficulty in demonstrating exactly how this could occur!

The possibility of subterranean or sub-oceanic bases, on the other hand, seems a perfectly feasible concept. After all, worldwide, there are probably hundreds of governmental ones anyway. Why not alien ones also, even with governmental knowledge and agreement, as indeed is alleged in more than a few quarters, particularly in the USA? This possibility, in my opinion, comes nearest to satisfying the requirements of Occam's Razor and would also account for craft not being picked up on radar when approaching Earth: for they wouldn't BE approaching Earth except in isolated instances. What, too, is a better way of masking one's origin than to get everyone looking in the wrong direction – UP rather than down?

Why should such prospective aliens do this? I'll leave a suggestion or two to the end, but here I think it's relevant to refer to two other items from past BUFORA JOURNALS.

The first comes from Vol. 5, No.2, August 1976, the JOURNAL then being under my editorship. It included a then-current research feature submitted by Jenny Randles and Tony Pace. Its first item concerned working hypotheses used by BUFORA. The following is an extract:-

1. The sightings involve misidentifications of objects which are natural or man-made and are well-known to experts.
2. The sightings involve man-made devices only known to their inventors.
3. The sightings reports are hoaxes or involve fabrications.
4. The sightings involve natural events which are not observed often enough for scientists to have produced suitable, scientific explanations.

5. The sightings are mental projections by, or received by, the witnesses.

6. The sightings involve devices produced by one or more alien, advanced technologies which originate:-

A) Elsewhere in our universe being:-

- i) within our solar system
- ii) within our galaxy
- iii) beyond our galaxy OR:-

B) In a universe which is not yet obvious to us using conventional techniques and which is:-

- i) parallel to ours in space and time
- ii) parallel to ours in space but not in time
- iii) parallel to ours in time but not in space

7. That the sightings are of intelligent processes beyond our space-time continuum and not explicable in any of the above categories.

“BUFORA is working on the assumption that the UFO reports made to us are mainly of category 1, and a small percentage belong to categories 2 – 5, but that A FEW PERCENT OF ALL REPORTS are consistent with hypotheses 6 and/or 7”.

There is little, if anything, there with which I would disagree, though it could perhaps be said that the list does not cover what one might term the ‘Keelist’ approach. That, for example, Earth might harbour indigenous, co-existent, malevolent entities which conceivably might be able to take on the appearance of whatever they wished – OR – that UFOs might be manifestations emanating from the collective subconscious of humanity. (ghostbuster 11 refers!!).

One further reference to past BUFORA JOURNALS – this time Vol. 9, No.1, March 1980, and I here quote from own editorial headed ‘The Resurrection of ETH’.

“... It disturbs me that currently the trend seems not just to produce hypotheses other than ETH, but to dismiss it altogether. Indeed, not only to dismiss the ETH, but to deny that UFOs may have a physical origin at all. Certainly, a proportion of the residue of ‘unknowns’ includes reports with psychic or parapsychological overtones. Certainly, a number of witnesses to such events have also had psychic experiences. Certainly, in some cases a ‘non-material’ explanation appears the more likely. Certainly, the diverse nature of reports generally suggests to some a deeper explanation than can be provided by ‘straightforward’ extra-terrestrial excursions and visitations.

“Nevertheless, a fair number of ‘high-strangeness’ accounts still DO exhibit physical characteristics, and to those who would place the whole phenomenon in the psychic or paranormal fields I would ask:-

“What then is the point of BUFORA – or indeed any UFO investigations group anywhere in the world – existing at all? For the entire phenomenon then falls within the jurisdiction of such societies as The Society for Psychic Research...

“We should not ignore the non-physical aspects, but what can one do about them? I am reminded of a gentleman at a meeting of the SPIRITUALIST ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN when the subject of the talk was THE RAUDIVE VOICES. This gentleman suggested – indeed forcefully stated – that the obvious way to prove their origin was to hold a seance to find out, oblivious to the fact that he would be ‘explaining’ one unknown by invoking the aid of another! I feel strongly that this line of approach is currently noticeable – too noticeable – in worldwide UFO research. To summarise, psychic/interdimensional possibilities cannot and should not be ignored but:-

1. Part of the UFO phenomenon IS physical.
2. We are far better placed to research a physical mystery than a non-physical one, particularly should Earth or Lunar bases be involved.
3. Should the physical mystery be solved, it might well result in a better understanding of some types of paranormal phenomena also.”

I considered those remarks relevant in 1980. I still consider them to be so.

But, to return once again to ‘craft’. What justifies identifying a UFO as an unknown craft? It’s a fair question and there are many accounts one might quote in justification. I’ll content myself here with but two. The first may be found in its full detail in BJ Vol.6, No.3, in 1977, and was entitled ‘Giant Cigarette over Essen’. Dating back to 1943, it was the account of a Mr. Cockburn, then sergeant pilot, later flight lieutenant, of what happened during a bombing raid on the Krupps Armament Works at Essen on the night of 26/27 May that year. I summarise in his own words...

“... Over 400 aircraft were involved in the raid. Ours was a Halifax with a crew of seven. We were to bomb from 20,000’. Visibility was good. Our time

over the target was 01.00 hrs... two minutes before our final run-in, when we were at 18,700’, we saw in front, slightly to port and at the same height, a long, cylindrical object, silvery-gold, very sharply defined, hanging in the air at about 45°. Evenly spaced along its length were a number of what appeared to be portholes. I was second pilot and all other crew members saw the object except the navigator and rear-gunner.

“... After 30 seconds it began moving and, retaining its 45° attitude, climbed away, accelerating rapidly until it vanished. As it accelerated, its outline became blurred and the shape foreshortened. It was certainly much larger than our own aircraft. Its speed seemed to us, in those days, incredible, certainly into thousands of miles per hour.

“... We completed our bomb run and returned to base where we were debriefed and gave a description of the object: we were unable to say what action, if any, was subsequently taken. I’ve never seen anything of this nature before or since, but in retrospect, I’m convinced this craft was of extra-terrestrial origin.

“... When it started to climb, there was no apparent motive power – no rocket flare. No instrument effect was noticed. None of us could offer a rational explanation...”

So much for the first. For the second, I’ll again return to a report previously featured in the BUFORA JOURNAL, this time Vol.7, No.3, in 1978. The term ‘craft’ is again clearly justified. Extra-terrestrial? Possibly, possibly not.

Its most interesting feature was perhaps completely unconnected with the object itself and lay in the fact that at least fourteen police officers – sergeants and constables – were involved apart from other witnesses, and all agreed to their names being published. I’m not going to go through them all here, but they may be found in the original article or on the sighting report forms which all completed.

The craft itself was sighted above Cumbria shortly after midnight on 28th August 1977 and was reported from at least seven locations including Bowness, Oxenholme, Keswick, High Portinscale, Silverdale and Grange-over-Sands.

All witnesses reported first seeing two bright lights ‘without beams’ approach them at between 40 mph and 50 mph at an altitude of around 1,500’. When overhead, amber and red lights – none conventional navigation lights –

became visible, outlining the shape of a very large, triangular, or 'skate-shaped' object moving almost noiselessly and sometimes hovering. Some witnesses DID hear a 'faint purring sound', but that was all. Finally, it headed out over Morecombe Bay and was lost to view. Police confirmed with air traffic control that there was no aerial movement of any kind anywhere in the vicinity. This included airships, and in any case, size and shape were completely inconsistent with such a craft.

Certainly, no mental illusion, this, and surely one to stand comparison with even the more 'classic' sighting reports, for how many have included more than a dozen trained observers situated in a number of different locations?

I have deliberately not put regressive hypnosis forward as a 'plus' factor for the ETH since I am by no means entirely happy from two different directions...

Firstly, I will agree that much may be clarified by this method, but in my opinion, it is difficult in many cases to say to what extent imagination and personal ideas and beliefs may have contributed. Secondly, from another viewpoint, SHOULD an alien encounter have taken place, could not the hypnotist be deliberately misled by pre-planted ideas, mental blocks or even physical implants?

I shall conclude by summarising a possible ET-based scenario. I would emphasise that whilst I regard this, or a variant thereof, as possibly the most likely solution to the UFO enigma, I do not 'believe' in it as an act of faith to the exclusion of all other possibilities.

Certainly, I would LIKE an ET solution to be the answer, but not, though, the type of scenario which may well be indicated.

So – to summarise:-

1. A proportion, albeit small percentage-wise of UFOs are of solid, manufactured objects.
2. Many of these objects can justifiably be described as 'craft'.
3. I would consider it likely – though not to the exclusion of all other possibilities – that the 'unidentifiables' from amongst these are of alien origin, probably (largely, at any rate) terrestrially based.
4. The only logical reason for such bases would be to maintain an overall observation of planetary events whilst permitting the 'locals' considerable elasticity of action.
5. Occasional extra-terrestrial incursions to such bases from a home satellite or planet would be expected to occur.
6. The reason for such bases could well be either: (A) That humanity was originally created by such visitants by

genetic experimentation, or: (B) That in the distant past, we were either conquered or 'won' by such a race and are currently 'owned'. Either way, we could be said to be property.

7. Confusion and disinformation would be in order so that discovery by the general populace might be prevented, hence the strange variety of reports and experiences.

8. With genetic experimentation, numbers of 'alien life-forms' may have been produced and could themselves create confusion.

Finally, what about other areas such as cattle mutilation and crop circles? Does the 'WE ARE PROPERTY' concept extend into such areas also? Very probably: indeed, if that concept is correct, it HAS to extend into some other areas. So far as animal mutilations are concerned, I find it difficult to do other than go along with the ideas and researches of Linda Howe. Are we being mystified cerealogically? Are alien intelligences(?) at work here too? I can only say that in the field of crop circles I'm sitting on the fence – if that's not too corny! I have, though, yet to see an article which fully justifies making a UFO connection. Why don't we allow the cerealogists (ologists?) to research THEIR phenomenon and go back to spending more time on ufology – it might even pay off!

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A TYPICAL BRITISH ABDUCTION

by Philip Mantle

For two years now, myself and colleagues at the IUN and BUFORA have devoted a great deal of our time researching just one aspect of the UFO enigma. That one aspect is ABDUCTIONS. Slowly but surely, a small group of us have been travelling up and down the country researching abduction cases both old and new. There is a long way yet to go, but our eventual aim is to study abductions in Britain like they have never been studied before.

Our research is, of course, witness oriented and most of the data we have collected comes first hand, direct from the witnesses involved. Such research as this has been sadly lacking in the past and we are confident that our approach will help us, and other researchers world wide, better understand the abduction phenomenon. To give you a better idea of some of the work we have been involved with I would like to present to you a little known British abduction case which we are currently involved with and also explain in greater detail future abduction research and how you can help us. The following abduction case was originally investigated by Contact International (UK) and was first published in AWARENESS (issue 3, 1985/86). Contact were the original investigators of the following case, but since Contact ceased their investigations some time ago, I have undertaken further research of the case along with my colleague, Margaret Fry.

During the week commencing February 10th 1985, an attempt was made to report a Close Encounter III (abduction) to Contact International. Former chairman, Fred Passey, received a call (probably because he is listed in Brinsley Le Poer Trench's books) and he informed Wheatley headquarters about this. Wheatley then established a telephone contact with the witness, who turned out to be a 19 year-old youth residing in a remote part of North Wales. He claimed an astounding encounter with a UFO as he walked home in the early hours of February 8th 1985. Apparently, he was taken (against his will) on board this UFO by alien beings, or robots, and transported to a giant mother ship parked at the

other side of the solar system beyond Pluto. The youth was obviously disturbed by this experience, and although not wishing to inform the police or media about his experience, felt that he needed to communicate with a responsible body of opinion such as Contact International.

Having made the first telephone call, the Wheatley investigation team pondered on their next move and tentatively agreed to make the long journey to meet the witness as soon as possible. However, this move was pre-empted when the witness and his mother arrived in Wheatley on Sunday morning, February 17th, having driven by car through ice and snow since 1 am. The move to travel to Wheatley had been so impulsive that no telephone call had been made, so it was possible that there would be nobody at home when they arrived. It turned out that Derek Mansell arrived home from working overtime about 30 minutes after the car arrived and he found the witness and his mother waiting in the road. Derek invited them into his house, but it took 10 minutes before the witness would leave the car, until persuaded by his mother. He was described as pale and dishevelled and shaking all the time. There was no doubt that he had experienced something terrifying. It was possible to obtain David Ridge at a moment's notice, so two members of Contact International's Data Team were present when the following description of the encounter was made by the witness.

THE CLOSE ENCOUNTER

The witness was walking home alone on a main road between 3.00 and

3.30 am on Friday 8th February 1985. He had been to see some friends in the nearby town listening to recordings and was now returning to his home in a village some 4 miles away. Apparently, it is fairly normal for people to walk around at this time of the morning in the area. He knew the road fairly well and did not carry a torch. It was a fairly starlit night, and although there had been substantial snowfalls over most of the country in the past few days, there was not too much snow in the locality.

After walking along the road for about 20 minutes, he was attracted to a faint humming noise coming from a field, and walking round a side lane, he saw a large, dull, black object hovering in the middle of the field. The object was about the size of three standard garages, of dome-disc shape with antennae or stabilisers. He estimated it to be 24-26' in diameter and 20' in height. It appeared to hover 2' above the ground and had a drawbridge-like hatchway and windows on the top. There was no obvious lighting system on the craft, although it had a fluorescent glow.

He watched the craft for a few minutes and then noticed humanoids approaching. At this point, he might have retreated, but there must have been another humanoid behind him who effectively captured him and somehow took him on board the UFO in the field. His captors were described as humanoid beings, but they could have been robots as they moved their arms in a rapid, stilted fashion. They were helmeted and apparently featureless except for two dim lights where the eyes should be. The head helmet was octagonal in shape. They wore greying suits with a gold belt, gold braces, a

green buckle, black knee boots and gloves.

The witness was taken into the craft and observed in a room for 15 minutes. He was then taken to a control room which contained 3-4 consoles and a screen on the wall. There, he was prepared for a 'time change' and then decontaminated. The being communicated telepathically. Next, the craft took off noiselessly with no 'G'-forces. The witness claims to have seen the planets of the solar system – Jupiter and Saturn, etc. – passing by one-by-one as seen on the screen, until the journey ended beyond the planet Pluto and then the craft docked with a huge mother ship.

On board the mother ship, he was then subjected to a medical examination. There was a long instrument with a point at the end which they used to burn his left arm. (marks were shown to the investigators) Probes were placed around his neck and chest and his heart rate was increased and decreased. He also claimed that they wished to remove his eyes from their sockets but was given the choice to refuse, which he did. A tape he was carrying in his pocket was removed and analysed, its music coming from a console which also picked up his thought waves.

During a telepathic communication between the witness and the beings, he was able to establish that they came from a planet beyond the constellation of Lyra. They breathed pure oxygen and did not like the polluted atmosphere on Earth. They had been based in Greenland and asked him about the

USA and NASA. Apparently, they had captured a 'Voyager' spacecraft, analysed it and found it to be 'primitive'. He also learned that the beings had bases on the Moon but had destroyed them when it was known that probes were being sent from Earth. They told him that Black Holes in space were really force fields around solar systems. He also found out that the scout ship was made from a form of plastic unknown to Man.

After what he thought had been a period of 6 hours from the time he was abducted, the witness was returned to Earth. His last recollection was of the UFO gradually disappearing from view. The final message was that further contact would be made with him if he was required and he was warned not to inform anyone of his experience. When he left the craft, he felt dizzy as if he was floating. A policeman on night patrol found him reeling about in the road and drove him home, where he arrived at 5.30 am. Thus, he had taken around 2½ hours for a journey which normally lasts 1¼ hours, indicating a missing time period of around 1½ hours, allowing for being driven home as well.

ON-SITE INVESTIGATION

Contact International were represented by Derek Mansell, Geoff Ambler and David Ridge. They travelled to the location on Sunday, 24th February 1985, 16 days after the incident took place. Following the wishes of the witness, his name and the

exact location of the event are to be kept confidential.

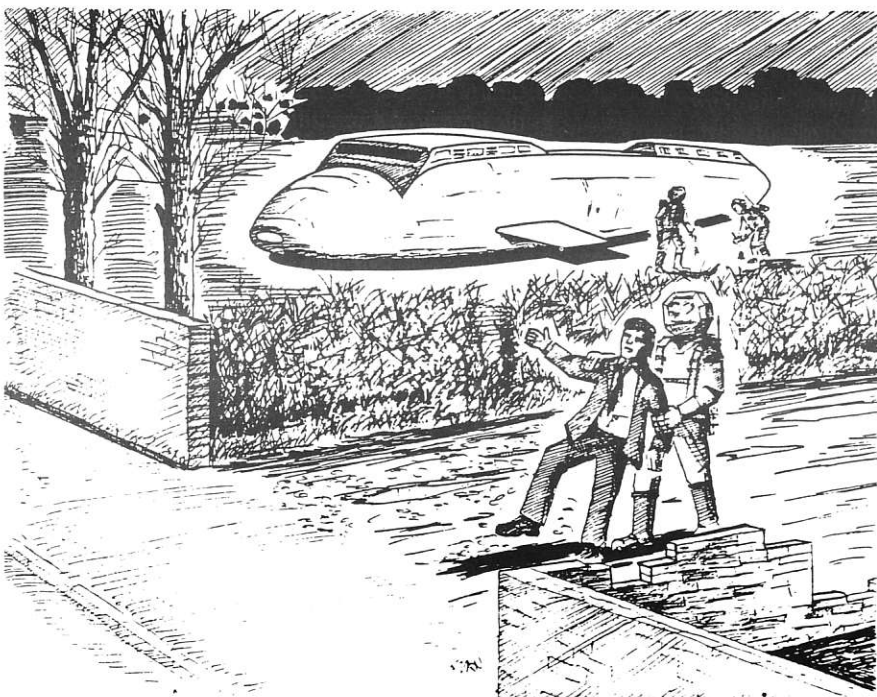
The investigation team were met at the home of the witness by him and his mother. Also present were his younger brother and the grandfather of the witness. A week after his hazardous drive to Wheatley, the witness appeared calm and relaxed. He willingly re-told his story and the replicated version appeared to agree fairly accurately with the statements made when he was under stress the week before. The burn marks on his left arm were just visible, although they were hardly anything that stood out to Geoff Ambler, who had not seen them previously.

Asked if any further contact had been made since February 8th, the witness reckoned that one attempt to communicate had been made before his drive to Wheatley, but since then the alien presence had faded, possibly because he had informed outsiders of what took place. Derek Mansell considered him visibly calm in one week. The witness was very keen to undergo hypnosis if it had been possible.

The investigation team tried to establish any abnormalities in the family background. Apart from being unemployed, the witness had no problem with drink or drugs; he made quite clear statements on this issue. It was obvious that the assembled members of the family were all very concerned about what had happened to him and gave no notion of disbelief themselves. The family lived in a large, pre-war house at the centre of a pretty village about 1 mile from the coast.

After about an hour discussing the case with the witness and his family, the team were taken to the landing site. The witness had no difficulty in showing exactly where the field was, although the road runs through fairly monotonous countryside. This particular area is somewhat beyond the more typical mountainous areas of North Wales. The terrain seemed fairly flat: in fact, some of the fields passed through on the journey looked unnaturally as smooth as a bowling greens. Thus, several of the fields in the area would make ideal landing sites for UFOs, helicopters or VTOL aircraft. There are no RAF bases or civilian airfields in the near vicinity.

The particular field that the UFO had landed in, however, was not the most ideal. It was slightly bumpy and the perimeter was surrounded by trees and bushes. The ground was very marshy, particularly near the edge, and a ditch



and 3' wall ran along parallel to the road. The investigators could find only one way into the field from the road without getting completely gummed up with mud. At 3 am in pitch darkness, it would have been most difficult to walk freely across the field to where the UFO was stationed. The team eventually got into the field and examined the ground for markings and excessive radiation with Geiger counters; there was no trace of anything at all.

A farm track, or poor quality road, leads off from the main road at this point down the side of the field and the witness had apparently walked a few yards down this road and observed the UFO through a gap in the trees. There was a wooded glade on the opposite side of the rough road from which one of the beings probably emerged. It was not realised at the time of the incident, but there are a small number of lived-in houses about 100 yards down the rough road. These are well hidden from the main road and it seems likely that the occupants of these houses must have seen or heard something being in such close proximity. Although the investigators made an excuse to be in the field, they did not ask any of the householders about the UFO landing in accordance with the witness' request for confidentiality.

INVESTIGATORS' CONCLUSIONS

There has been no related incident from February 8th 1985, or within a few days of this date, so the validity of the case rests entirely with the testimony of the witness. An unknown policeman must have been close to seeing the UFO, as he picked up the witness and took him home after the alleged abduction. The investigation team have been tempted into trying to find this policeman, but agreed not to do so in accordance to the witness' wishes. Apparently, the policeman had been seen earlier by the witness when he left the town initially.

The witness did not appear to be after public recognition, else he would have quickly informed the media. The type of story related is beloved by the tabloid press. If he was intent on a hoax, then why inform only Contact International?

Possibly, he might have had a small wager with friends without wishing to go too far. The gesture of making a 250 mile journey to report to Contact International Headquarters on an icy

February night seems certain to indicate that the witness was very disturbed indeed. Hoaxers would surely not discomfort themselves to such an extent.

Again, the field chosen for the landing was hardly the best along the road. It was difficult to see into it let alone reach the spot where the UFO came down. In fact, a field directly opposite this one on the other side of the road presented an open gate and the most easy access. The choice of the hoaxer would tend to be more convenient.

The witness was taken on board the craft in the field, but it would have been literally impossible to walk across the field in the total darkness, so at this point, the conclusion one must take is that the encounter became more of a mental concept than a physical happening. The witness was taken over mentally by a mechanism we cannot hope to understand. Whether he was shipped out beyond the solar system is open to doubt, but in a system of thought transference, anything is possible.

There was little the investigators could check out after finding no evidence of a landing in the field. The witness claimed to have seen most of the planets passing by on the screen. If the journey was in a direct line past these planets, then a check could be made to see if they were in correct alignment on February 8th. A computer run indicated that most of the planets were, in fact, in the same quadrant. The witness was asked if he had read many books on UFOs; it appears he had read probably two titles. He tried to find these at home but apparently had mislaid them. He also had more than a passing interest in astronomy. The investigation team has spent many hours discussing this case and feels that the witness experienced something beyond reasonable doubt.

IUN-BUFORA INVESTIGATION

Contact International kindly gave me the address of this witness, and up to the present, I have interviewed him on two separate occasions. On the first occasion last year, I was accompanied by veteran UFO researcher, Margaret Fry, who lives in North Wales. In June of this year, I interviewed the witness on my own. On both occasions, the witness was extremely nervous and it was obvious that talking about his experience still upset him. After the experience in 1985, and after Contact's

investigation had finished, the witness was plagued with nightmares about the event. These nightmares became so bad that he eventually sought medical help and underwent hypnotherapy. The nightmares have almost completely disappeared now, but do return on occasion.

The experience dramatically altered the witness' life. He has become deeply interested in 'green' issues and writes spontaneous poetry. He has even attempted to write a few songs, one of which is based on his experience. When questioned about the physical reality of his experience, the witness stated that the UFO in the field was, to him, physically real, but the events inside the UFO seemed 'unreal' or 'different' in some way. Readers familiar with other abduction accounts, especially those from the USA, will note that this case is a typical British abduction. There are none of the small, grey-skinned, bug-eyed creatures as reported in almost all abduction cases in the USA. No genetic experiments and no hypnotic regression. The UFO is not the typical type of craft often reported in such cases either. All of these things added together do make it a typical, British, abduction case which do differ from those of other countries, especially the USA. The witness has had a great deal more to say about his experience, but lack of space prevents publication of this material at this time. Further interviews are planned with the witness later this year.

Several of my colleagues and I are trying to conduct a variety of research projects on British abduction cases. One such avenue of research is that of psychological testing of abductees. With the aid of a psychologist in Bradford, West Yorkshire, and another in the West Midlands, we hope to be able to replicate a similar experiment conducted on abductees in the USA. Several new cases have also come to light which may have regressive hypnosis used, should we feel it necessary. This whole abduction research is a long term programme and the previous case is just one example of the many cases we are involved with.

Sources

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UFO BRIGANTIA, summer 1989.

REVIEWS ...

THE ALIENS REVEALED CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the IUN and Enigma Design and Publishing. Held on Saturday April 25 1992.

This one-day conference at UMIST, Manchester drew a good audience and had four presenters spread over some six hours. The first was veteran US ufologist, George G. Fawcett, who has been investigating UFOs since he was 15 during the days of the 'Foo Fighters'. He showed a great many slides, perhaps too many, with some decidedly unconvincing; he supports the 'grand ETH cover-up' hypothesis, believes in abductions, E-M effects, cattle mutilations and so on. He even told us that 'angel hair' has been tasted (it was salty) on one occasion!

John McNish of the BBC spoke at length on crop circles, and gave an excellent video presentation, showing many of the latest formations including the Mandelbrot set near Cambridge. He went through the intended secret Operation Blackbird and revealed the hoax perpetrated on the project in 1990; there was also a memorable film of Doug and Dave 'doing their bit' with a most embarrassed Messrs Andrews and Delgado looking on. Even Dr Meaden, despite putting on a brave face, had to eat some humble pie. Also shown for the first time were some of the circles made in other countries, notably Canada and Germany. McNish still has an open mind on the circles and ended by saying that we can only hope and wait for further developments this summer.

Jenny Randles talked at first about SETI, then went on to the UFO connection. She also emphasised that Arnold's original sighting did not describe the objects as disc shaped. Another point she brought home was that UK 'aliens' generally look quite different from US ones, the latter being much smaller. This point should be stressed, she said, and does tend to negate the ETH concept. She also asked why, in the view of the vast increase in camera ownership and hi-tech, the number of 'good' photographs seems to be decreasing with time when it should be increasing. A point well made.

The Ilkley alien photo was shown. Oh dear, it appears this man (still anonymous) has now been hypnotically regressed and even been visited by 'Men in Black'. Although the photo has allegedly been very well investigated, we still do not know why this witness should just happen to have had a camera with him at dawn on a winter morning while walking on the moors! Has Jenny any idea I wonder?

Jenny erred in the case of the Stephen Darbyshire photo (1954) in saying Stephen had never heard of Adamski. This is not the point. It is true that he had not read the book but he certainly had seen the Adamski photos beforehand, they were widely published at the time. Desmond Leslie who interviewed Stephen within a few days of the sighting, specifically said that Stephen had indeed seen the Adamski 'Scout Ship' photo in a magazine. Contrary to what some have claimed, it would not have been difficult for a bright and artistic boy of 13 to cut out a paper model to the same proportions and photograph it, out of focus, atop a landscape drawing. In an old report such as this, it is always better to go back to the original accounts rather than rely on recent re-interviews as Jenny has done.

Jacques Vallee was the fourth speaker. He is highly skeptical of crashes and abductions but did say several cases of physical evidence do exist. (without giving any dates or locations). He also believes the Voronezh (Russia) affair is very important. Most interesting was his account of investigations into a number of nighttime incidents in Brazil where witnesses report being zapped by beams of light. Apparently the Brazilian Air Force also investigated but never published their findings. Vallee did show one good daytime photo of a disc directly below a plane off the coast of Brazil, which is still undergoing extensive investigation.

He still takes the 'other dimensions' and 'other forms of consciousness' approach as the likely answer.

All in all, a varied and interesting day's ufology. Unfortunately some speakers go on far too long. After about 20 slides I have usually had enough,

especially as so many UFO photos, ones which pop up time and time again, are of such poor quality as to be worthless. As a result schedules overrun and question time suffers.

Review by Christopher D. Allen

CROP CIRCLES: CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE?

by Pat Delgado, 159 pp colour
photographs, published by
Bloomsbury £14.99

It doesn't take long to read this latest offering from circles Guru, Pat Delgado as there are so many colour photographs (125 in all). They represent a pictorial record of all the popular crop circles from 1991, which again, underlines the visual beauty of the phenomenon; an observation which cannot be denied.

Unfortunately though, the written contents of the book does not do its title justice as its full of wishy-washy inferences referring to some form of 'intelligence' which is supposedly behind the circle formations which have grasped the imaginations of so many. Delgado's discussion on lettering found in crops is laughable. He claims that the immortal 'WEARENOTALONE' lettering has never been explained - come on Pat was you born yesterday! The same goes for a strange set of lettering found on Milk Hill in Wiltshire, which uses a tractor tramline as a straight edge. He states that it will be a long time before this is deciphered - probably because nobody can be bothered wasting time with an obvious hoax.

Talking of hoaxing, the author makes light of the hoaxing element - an element that has taken centre stage this year. He seems to shrug away hoaxing as a minor irritation to serious research and states that he believes that some of it has been organised by Government departments with orders from Ministerial levels. What a claim, especially with no evidence to back it up (If there is I will gladly print it in UFO Times and prove myself wrong!).

Overall, a visually interesting book with a disappointing text.

Review by Mike Wootten

Experiment D Continued

For each subject, the seven target locations were ranked in order of distance from each of the seven response locations. The ranks corresponding to the correct matches were then summed with the following results:-

subject	1	5	8	10	11	16	17	18
rank sum	31	24	18	29	30	36	35	28

The rank sum has MCE = 28. Low values represent positive scoring. Only subject 8 achieved a significant result: $p = 0.0238$ by the direct count of permutations analysis. A similar analysis applied to the measured distances themselves gave $p = 0.0629$.

Interestingly, subject 8 remarked against his/her first response: "I did this before the test was supposed to commence... but I now think it should perhaps be slightly more to the centre." This afterthought was correct and would have given a near hit.

Experiment G: CLOCK FACE

The target time was 4.40, the time shown by a stopped clock in MRB's house.

Subject:	1	5	8	10	11	16	17	18
Response:	4.00	3.58	7.57	3.02	8.25	10.56	4.25	4.07

This test does not permit evaluation; for instance, there may be a natural preference for tea-time. Subject 17 came closest to the target [-15 mins]. Subject 11's response of 8.25 gives an almost exact hand-reversal effect.

Experiment E: WORDS

MRB prepared a sealed envelope for each subject, each containing a different phrase.

subject	target	response	rank
1	The Pied Piper of Hamelin	You are a fraud	1
5	The Wind in the Willows	He who knows	>4
8	Old King Cole	A spoonful of sugar	1
10	Thy Kingdom Come	Life on Earth	4
11	War and Peace	The sky at night	>4
16	It is an Ancient Mariner	Three blind mice	>4
17	The Creature from another World	Let in the light	3
18	Solomon in all his glory	Contact with Earth	>4

The results were analysed in two ways:-

- One-to-one matching of the set of responses against the set of targets. This gave one correct match [subject 8], a purely chance result [MCE = 1].
- For each response, the targets were ranked [to 4 places] in order of closeness of correspondence [see last column in above table]. On the direct count of permutations analysis $p = 0.432$, or $p = 0.298$ with the control subject excluded. Again a chance result.

Experiment F: DRAWINGS

PF prepared a grand pool containing five different drawings in various quantities, each drawing being of a single item and individually drawn. Each subject was randomly allocated a drawing in a sealed envelope.

Target:	church	digital clock	meusli packet	meusli packet	horse	horse	digital clock	horse
Subject:	1	3	4	2	4	2	5	3
Rank:	1	3	4	2	4	2	5	3

The rank sum is 24, exactly equal to MCE.

Experiment H: OLD MASTERS

The target was Holman Hunt's 'Light of the World', selected by MRB several days after the subjects made their responses: i.e. a precognitive test.

A pool comprising the target plus four controls was blind matched:-

- a) For each response, the five pictures were ranked impressionistically in order of closeness of correspondence. Although no subject obtained a direct hit, the target was judged first out of five on a majority vote.
- b) Each response was scored against the five pictures, judging specific points of correspondence. The target scored 20.5 points as against 21.25, 19.5, 19.5, 17 for the controls: i.e. second on a majority vote.

CONCLUSION

None of the experiments showed evidence of an extra-chance factor. Subject 8's performance in the map test was the most interesting single result, although the p-value of 0.0238 cannot be considered significant in the context of eight subjects [$8 \times 0.0238 = 0.190$].

The results are disappointing in view of the subject's claimed abilities. It may be that the artificial test situation inhibited psychic functioning: some subjects and would-be subjects expressed such misgivings.

The experiments were devised and carried out by Mary Rose Barrington, Peter Flew, Betty Marwick and John Stiles.
Betty Marwick. January 1992.

Some Observations On The Test By The Control, Ken Phillips

Because of the fact that all the subjects 'flunked' this test it would be pointless to carry out such a survey again under the same conditions. However, the test must not be regarded as a total failure from an exploratory aspect since its outcome reveals two scenarios:-

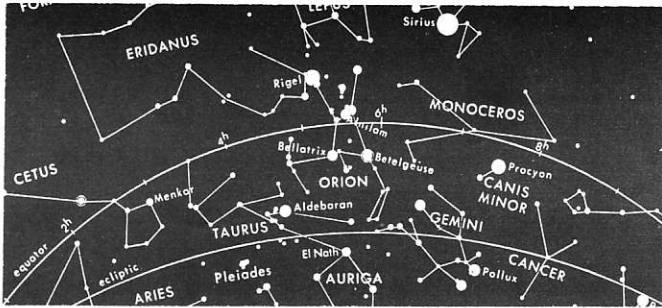
- a) ESP is not present within the C/E population, or:-
- b) ESP is present but that the SPR's 'Richmond Group' test has failed to detect it because ESP is, apparently, totally random in nature and one can only detect it on a purely chance basis [C/E witnesses who took this test still declare to be experiencing ESP even though they know they have failed this test!].

If (a) is the truth of the matter, then we must look elsewhere for common characteristics within the C/E population. On the other hand, if (b) is the truth, then we really are up the creek without a paddle since resource limitation prevents us from capturing this psychic 'neutrino'.

In any event, the SPR has made a valuable contribution to BUFORA's research department if only by way of showing us what cannot be proved by such testing.

NOTICE *Had A Change Of Address?*

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Skywatcher

Edited by Gary Anthony

In this Skywatcher we examine NASA's extreme ultraviolet explorer (EUVE) satellite and the Atlas-1 which are both ready for launch. Plus the US technicians in a tank of bubbles, practice to correct Hubbles Space Telescope troubles! The Eta Aquarid meteor shower is active during moonless dark skies and all the regular Skywatcher features.

The Planets

Venus – May Rises only a few minutes before the Sun, unobservable.

June The planet is at superior conjunction on the 13th, afterwards becoming a difficult evening object, remaining near the Sun until later in the year.

Mars – May Mars rises two hours

before the Sun by the 31st at magnitude 1.0. Crescent moon near on the 28th.

June The red planet is moving through Pisces at magnitude 1.0, rises by 01 hrs late in June. Moon near on the 26th.

Jupiter – May is stationary on the 1st, afterwards moving eastwards. The planet is at magnitude -1.9 and sets by 01 hrs by the 31st. The Giant planet is

in the constellation of Leo and the Moon is nearby on the 10th.

June Sets in Leo by 23 hrs at the end of June. Moon is near on the 6th/7th.

Saturn – May The planet rises just after midnight and is best seen at the end of May, reaching stationary point and retrograde after the 29th in Capricorn. Moon is nearby on the 23rd.

June Saturn rises by 22 hrs late in June. Moon is near on the 19th.

SPACE NEWS

EUVE Satellite Ready for Launch

The Extreme Ultraviolet Explorer (EUVE) satellite designed by NASA has been transported to Cape Canaveral ready for launch this May.

On board EUVE are three telescopes which will scan hitherto little-studied aspects of this portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. In addition to these telescopes a special deep survey spectrometer telescope, developed by scientists at the University of California, will be looking at UV objects outside the Milky Way.

EUVE will make the sky survey of the distribution of extreme ultraviolet sources in and outside our galaxy during its mission. Objects such as neutron stars, white dwarf stars, red dwarf stars, and binary systems will be under the scrutiny of the EUVE satellite.

Hubble Bubbles

American space technicians have been undergoing eye surgery procedures in the weightless environment of a giant water chamber, in preparation for a repair mission to the Hubble Space Telescope in 1994. It's the beginning of a series of exercises inside a tank full of bubbles with a model of the HST, where the technicians get plenty of practice in a simulated environment, at making numerous repairs to improve the HST's imaging capabilities.

All information courtesy of ESA and NASA.

If any investigator requires astronomical information to help with the evaluation of case investigations please write (enclosing an sae) to:

**Gary Anthony, BUFORA ARP, 119
Askew Avenue, Hull, North
Humberside, HU4 6LT**

skydata

MAY		1992		JUNE		
2nd 18 h		New Moon		1st 04 h		
9th 16 h		First Quarter		7th 21 h		
16th 16 h		Full Moon		15th 05 h		
24th 16 h		Last Quarter		23th 08 h		
RA	Dec			RA	Dec	
—Unobservable—		Venus		—Unobservable—		
23h > 01h	-10° > +10°	Mars		23h > 01h	-10° > +10°	
10h > 12h	00° > +20°	Jupiter		10h > 12h	00° > +20°	
20h > 22h	-10° > -20°	Saturn		20h > 22h	-10° > -20°	
Meteor Showers						
Name	Begins	Maximum	Ends	Max ZHR	Radiant	Coordinates
Eta Aquarids	Apr 21	May 4	May 12	20+	336° RA	+00° Dec
Shower is associated with Halley's Comet and is active during new moon						
Note: All co-ordinates refer to the 'equatorial system'.						

Pineal Connections

Dear Editor

I have read with some interest, the first part of Dr Roney-Dougal's article 'UFOs, States of Mind and the Pineal Connection.' I found the article imaginative and thought-provoking, and of the type which those with an eclectic interest in UFP phenomena would find highly rewarding. Let's have more of them.

I would like to add a cautionary note, however, with respect to the interpretations some people may make concerning the role of the pineal gland in human physiology and as a 'link between Psi and the Earth,' particularly in the context of ufology.

A few points I would like to address are as follows:

1. The hormone melatonin (and a group of chemically related substances %-methoxy indoles) is indeed produced in the gland and in such a manner that lends itself to inhibition by a light stimulus appropriate magnitude. This occurs do to the indirect inhibition, by light, of the enzyme which produces melatonin – HIOMT.

Bright sunlight is strong enough to interfere with this process, for example, whereas bright moonlight is not.

2. While melatonin does indeed respond to magnetic fields of appropriate magnitude (such as those found on the Earth), there is nothing to my knowledge in the published literature to date to suggest that this is the case in humans or even in higher animals.

The evidence for this effect was produced by the effects of such fields on melatonin producing cells (melanocytes) *in vitro*. I am surprised to learn that the perturbation in the Earth's magnetic field (caused presumably by the orbital fluctuations of the moon) is of a sufficient order to do this in any meaningful way physiologically. This is difficult to entertain given the other factors which prevail on Earth which can influence this gland more directly – artificial lighting, darkness, and so on.

3. The same is true, to a great extent, with respect to the influence this hormone and related hormones have on other body systems, both at the gross physiological and biochemical levels.

A number of studies in the past 10 to 15 years *have* demonstrated that melatonin does indeed correlate with certain changes at these levels in humans (SAD – Seasonal Affective Disorder being the most well known).

Readers

Write

Express your views by sending your correspondence to:

**The editor, UFO Times,
Suite 1, The Leys,
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However, most of the apparently causal relationships which have been found, have been in animal studies where non-physiological doses of the hormone have been used. While this is normal scientific practice, we must be very careful about extrapolating such findings to the human situation.

4. It is not true to state that '...melatonin is the controlling hormone that switches off production of the hormones in the body...'. if it were we wouldn't exist. What is true, is that this fascinating hormone can influence the efficacy of other hormones; many indeed as Dr Roney-Dougal implies, through a link with the pituitary gland and the hypothalamus. Further, and of particular interest, there are (animal) studies which suggest that this hormone may have a much greater ability to do this immediately after birth.

Over a decade ago I wrote a book (The Opening Eye, Coventure, 1980) attempting to link pineal function with some specific and highly statistically significant findings, made by the late Dr Michael Gauquelin in the field of cosmobiology. It is as a consequence of this, and my research into this area, that I urge caution with respect to the interpretation of this otherwise, excellent and provocative article.

Dr Roney-Dougal is to be commended on her exciting and novel approach to possible factors which may pertain to some UFO related phenomena. But let us keep our feet on the ground and appreciate that what is being said here is speculative.

While some of it may, in the future, be seen to be of importance in this context, it must be stressed that we are far from reaching informed conclusions on the true functions of this gland in relation to the functions of the human mind

and body – let alone in relation to ufology.

**Dr Frank McGillion
Glasgow.**

Editor's comment

Thank you for a very interesting letter and I am sure that it will help us all to keep our feet firmly on the ground. However, Dr Roney-Dougal's compelling paper has certainly got me and others thinking about the possible processes behind some UFO phenomena. To her credit, she does stress that these are her own speculative ideas. I am certain that her 'thinking aloud' will open new avenues of research into brain functions and the UFO experience which desperately need looking into.

Dear Editor

There are a few points I would like to raise about the recent article UFOs, States of Mind and the Pineal Connection by Serena Roney-Dougal (UT16-UT17).

The author implies that a different perception of reality is possible if the connections between neurons in the brain are triggered by quantum events. Quantum events happen to sub-atomic particles. A neuron would be by far too large an object to be affected by something happening on a scale which is many orders of magnitude smaller.

The process which is described as the virtual state in which we are in one (or more) places at once until we "make our minds up and collapse our own wave function" has the author trying to make the connection with probability waves but wave functions don't arise merely by thinking about them.

Ms Roney-Dougal also tries to make the connection between the yogic chakras and various bodily glands. This

follows on from a previously (failed) attempt by others to identify them with nerve-centres such as the solar plexus. In complete disregard to these theories the yogis themselves maintain that the chakras lie within the spinal column and nowhere else. They should really be regarded as being aids to meditation rather than having any physical counterpart.

In the second part of the article the author confuses silica (sand) with silicon. Their electrical characteristics are completely different. The amorphous nature of crystalline rocks renders their electrical properties virtually negligible.

The author states that we are "exquisitely sensitive" to the Earth's magnetic field. One magnetic field is pretty much like another and the Earth's is considerably weaker than most. On this basis I should surely be able to point to the nearest bar magnet! It is one thing to say that modern physics, with its quantum weirdness, allows the possibility of a different reality to that which we normally perceive and then leap to the conclusion that a different reality actually exists and impinges on our own only through psychic perception.

The investigation and understanding of the unknown should proceed from the known i.e. the development of physical theories should provide a framework of understanding based on sound principles. It is not for the unknown to grab those theories in which it finds assurance and then proclaim credibility.

Edward Brown
Stockport, Cheshire

Questionnaire Suggestion

Dear Editor

With reference to the new sighting questionnaire that was highlighted in UFO Times number 16. I would like to offer one suggestion concerning this new proposed form -specifically section C: the compass dial.

I think it beneficial, from the witness point of view, if the compass dial was printed over the outline of the UK (see diagram).

I feel this would be an aid to witness orientation and I have certainly come across quite a few people who have difficulty with North, South East and West directions. I should imagine that incorporating this would be of benefit to the witness and to the accuracy of the form.

However, on the whole the form is very well set out. Top marks!

Darryl Hedger,
BUFORA Provisional AI, Liverpool

Campbells Camps

Dear Editor

In UT16 you claim that UFO researchers are of two types, those that espouse the ETH and those who believe that people are 'imbalanced'. Not only are there more camps than this, no group of investigators believes that most reports come from the mentally ill. There are very few such reports; in fact I know of only one (one I investigated).

The dichotomy you describe applies, not to UFO investigators, but to the general public, which either believes that UFOs are alien spacecraft or that the people who make UFO reports are in some way 'mad'. As you must know, most reports come from people of sound mind who were genuinely puzzled by what they saw. In that sense, the UFO phenomenon is real.

Your criticism of the ETH is justified (as far as it goes). A more cogent criticism is that ILE (Intelligent Life Elsewhere) is probably very rare and so far away that it cannot reach us, even if it could find us. First contact will not be made by tiny scout craft crossing light-years of void only to frighten innocent farmers in remote areas. It will be made by radio, and then with difficulty.

People who fantasize are quite normal. We are all prone to do so to some extent and there will always be a minority who go to extremes. Bullard is surely right (that the UFO phenomenon cannot be exclusively as a fantasy), but for the wrong reason. There is probably always some external stimulus. Your analysis ignored the possibility that (as Jung proposed) the appearance of real objects may afford the opportunity for mythological projection. This may mean that, although many reports (especially of abductions) are fantasies, they are initiated by sight of some aerial phenomenon. This is my belief. Most UFO reports are caused by sight of some astronomical object (often in mirage). In some impressionable people, this may produce a 'fantastic' report that owes more to imagination than to what was seen or experienced. This is no 'half-cocked' explanation; it is the 'Full and Final Answer'. UFOs do not exist; all genuine reports are caused by misperception of some innocent stimulus (often a mirage) and, in some cases, elaboration of the experience via dreams or hypnosis.

One final comment. Please tell the NIC that their new sighting questionnaire has a serious defect in not asking for the observed altitude (angle of

elevation) of the object. This item was a feature of the previous form, so why has it been omitted?

Steuart Campbell
Edinburgh

Editor's comment

Some nice ideas Steuart, but I think you're wrong. I don't know where you've been lately, but several researchers in this country have the opinion that UFO witnesses (especially those involved in high strangeness cases) are in poor mental health at the very least. Nigel Watson's unclaimed book, 'Portraits of Alien Encounters' is a prime example of this. I am very aware that there are many more ufological camps of thought, I merely focused on these two extremes. However you are probably right that there are very few reports made by the mentally ill - some investigators and researchers find it easy to pigeon hole witnesses into this category, without the qualifications to do so.

Unfortunately Steuart, you are quite wrong when you state that 'Most UFO reports are caused by sight of astronomical objects'. In fact, from a recent study of 1372 BUFORA cases only 17% of IFOs related to misidentifications of astronomical objects. The misidentifications leader was actually aircraft with 21% share. To be frank your suggestion the all UFO reports can be reduced to IFOs using your astronomical/mirage theory is naive. You seem to forget close encounter cases such as the Livingston case: well documented, physical traces and a plaque at the site to prove it! I would love to know how you can apply your theory to this and similar cases.

I do not believe that you have this 'Full and Final Answer'. Your theory like many others may explain some experiences, but does not have the capacity to account for every UFO report under the Sun.

Your comment on the new sighting questionnaire is quite right. However, it is planned to produce a separate 'All Sky Diagram' which is a more comprehensive way to estimate angle of elevation and will give more information about the object's movement. However, the diagram's disadvantage is that it will need to be completed with the help of the investigator. Therefore, I will see if an angle of elevation diagram can be included in the new questionnaire.

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DIARY

- | | |
|----------|---|
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(details to follow) |
| 5th Sept | Ley Hunter Moot, Hebden Bridge, West Yorks
Details from Andy Roberts 84 Elland Road,
Brighouse, West Yorks, HD6 2QR (SAE Please) |
| 19 Sept | BUFORA 30th Anniversary Conference
London Business School
Speakers include: Stuart Campbell,
Ralph Noyes, Norman Oliver, Philip Mantle
and Mike Wootten.
Details from BUFORA Central Office. |
| 3rd Oct | BUFORA London Lecture
Details to follow |
| 10th Oct | BUFORA Investigation Training Day
Friends Meeting House – Birmingham
Details to follow |
| 24th Oct | BUFORA Regional Meeting
Friends Meeting House – Birmingham
Details to follow |

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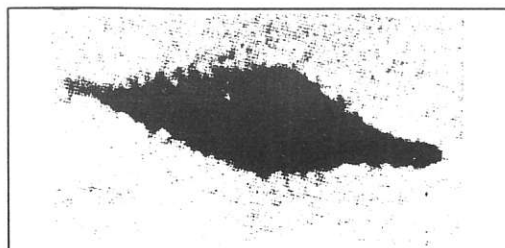
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